

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action

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Info

INFO RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA THREE

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RUEFRCR/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JULY 6

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR BURRIS.

USIA

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GREEK POLITICAL SITUATION IS STILL MARKY AND TENSE AS BOTH QUESTION OF CHANGE IN ARMY AND DEFENSE LEADERSHIP AND QUESTION OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S ALLEGED ROLE IN "ASPIDA" REMAIN PENDING. OVER WEEKEND PRO-GOVT TO VIMA CONTINUED ITS STRONG ATTACKS ON DEFMIN GAROUFALIAS, TERMING HIM "DANGEROUS MAN" WHO IS PLOTTING TO BECOME PRIMIN. PAPER ALLEGED GAROUFALIAS HAD BEEN INVITING NUMBER OF CU DEPUTIES TO HIS TOME AND HAD BEEN INSINATING HE HAS SUPPORT OF PALACE AND "FOREIGN FACTOR." TO VIMA CONCLUDED BY STATING IT WOULD BE "UNTHINKABLE" FOR KING TO OBJECT TO PRIMIN'S ASSUMING DEFMIN PORTFOLIO AND KING SHOULD TAKE PAPANDREOU'S EXPECTED ADVICE FOR ELECTIONS RATHER THAN SEEK FORM NEW GOVERNMENT FROM PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

ELEFThERIA ALSO REPEATED ITS CALL FOR REMOVAL OF GAROUFALIAS AND ARMY CHIEF GENNIMATAS, ALTHOUGH IT CONTINUED TO CONCENTRATE ITS ATTACK ON CU'S "ACHILLES' HEEL," ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, AND TO EMPHASIZE PARTICULARLY LATTER'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN "ASPIDA". ERE PRESS, ON OTHER HAND, ASSERTED EDA AND CENTER-LEFT ARE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE KING BY THREATENING TO RAISE A CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE AND TO ORGANIZE POPULAR UPRISINGS. KATHIMERINI (ERE) ALSO CLAIMED GAROUFALIAS IS RIGHT IN REFUSING TO RESIGN AND TO OPEN DOOR TO INFILTRATION INTO ARMY.

PRIMIN HIMSELF ADDED TO AIR OF DISQUIET ON SUNDAY BY REFERRING IN SPEECH INAUGURATING REFUGEE SLUM CLEARANCE PROJECT IN ATHENS SUBURB TO "SINISTER POWERS" DIRECTED AGAINST HIM AND BY PROCLAIMING "NOBODY SHALL STAND IN MY WAY AS LONG AS I HAVE CONFIDENCE AND LOVE OF GREEK PEOPLE." YESTERDAY, "RELIABLE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN," WHO ERE PRESS DESCRIBED AS PRIMIN HIMSELF, MADE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT AS PART OF PAPANDREOU EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THINKING OF KING AND PUBLIC:

"CU HAS NO INTENTION OF RAISING A CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE IF GOVERNMENT RESIGNS AND WE ARE THEN LED TO ELECTIONS AS IS CERTAIN TO HAPPEN.

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-2- 29, JULY 6, FROM ATHENS

CU HAS ACCEPTED AS LAWFUL CONSTITUTION OF COUNTRY THAT OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY. IT WILL SIMPLY RAISE QUESTION OF NORMAL OPERATION OF CONSTITUTION. THIS MEANS THAT KING REIGNS AND PEOPLE RULES. A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RAISED BY THE RIGHT WHICH SUPPORTS MONARCHICAL APPLICATION OF PRESENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THEORY OF RIGHT, KING BOTH REIGNS AND RULES. THAT IS CALLED RULE OF THE MONARCH. THAT IS WHY IN EVENT OF ELECTIONS QUESTION WILL BE POSED: TRUE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY OF RULE OF THE MONARCH. THE PEOPLE WILL DECIDE."

COMMENT: DESPITE ARGUMENTS BY BOTH OPPOSITION AND ELEMENTS WITHIN CU THAT PRIMIN'S ASSUMPTION OF DEFMIN PORTFOLIO WOULD APPEAR HIGHLY IRREGULAR AS LONG AS INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED INTO "ASPIDA," PAPANDREOU REPORTEDLY DECIDED OVER WEEKEND TO SEEK GAROUFALIAS' REMOVAL EVEN BEFORE COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION. WE SURMISE THAT PRIMIN, IN VIEW OF CONTINUING HEAVY ATTACKS ON GAROUFALIAS BY PRO-GOV'T PRESS AND PROSPECT OF "ASPIDA" INVESTIGATION'S DRAGGING ON FOR ANOTHER 10 DAYS OR MORE, FELT IT WOULD BE BEST TO TRY TO END ANOMALOUS SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALSO PRIMIN WAS UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED BY REPORTS OF HIS ADVISORS THAT "THE PEOPLE" ARE OVERWHELMINGLY BEHIND HIM ON MILITARY QUESTION. HIS ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION AT REFUGEE SLUM CLEARANCE PROJECT REPORTEDLY MADE DEEP IMPRESSION ON HIM. FURTHERMORE, AS WE HAVE NOTED, PRIMIN WAS INTENT ON REMOVING GAROUFALIAS NOT ONLY BECAUSE LATTER WAS "UNHAPPILY LABELLED AS MAN OF THE PALACE" BUT ALSO BECAUSE HIS (PAPANDREOU'S) ASSUMPTION OF DEFMIN PORTFOLIO WOULD SUPPOSEDLY ENCOURAGE OFFICERS DETAINED IN "ASPIDA" AFFAIR NOT TO IMPLICATE HIS SON...

WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES, PRIMIN NOW APPEARS DETERMINED TO REMOVE GAROUFALIAS AT EARLY DATE AND, IF KING OBJECTS, TO RESIGN AND RECOMMEND ELECTIONS. (TIMING HINGES MAINLY ON QUEEN ANNE-MARIE, FOR PRIMIN IS EXPECTED TO VISIT CORFU IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH OF CHILD TO OFFER KING HIS CONGRATULATIONS AND TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER MEETING WITHIN FEW DAYS FOR DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS.) DECISIVE QUESTION IS STILL WHETHER KING WILL ACCEPT DANGEROUS ADVICE OF SOME OF HIS RIGHTWING ASSOCIATES TO OPPOSE PAPANDREOU ON THIS ISSUE OR WHETHER TWO LEADERS WILL BE ABLE FIND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE.

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